



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 105th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 144

WASHINGTON, FRIDAY, MAY 22, 1998

No. 67

Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Gracious God, our Father who has given us life, bless us this day as we accept the privilege of work. Thank You that the work You have given the Senators and those who work with and for them is crucial for the future of our Nation.

As this intense and busy week comes to a close, we express our gratitude for each Senator's staff, the officers of the Senate and their staffs, the reporters of debates, the media, the pages, the police guards and Secret Service, the elevator operators, the food service personnel, the landscape and maintenance people, and so many others who work so faithfully on hundreds of important tasks. May we take no one for granted and communicate our esteem and affirmation to everyone who works around us.

Today, we especially thank You for Stuart Balderson, Financial Clerk of the U.S. Senate, who has recently retired after faithfully serving this body for 38 years. Bless Stuart and his wife, Marie. May their retirement years continue to be joyful and purposeful. Through our Lord and Savior. Amen.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The able acting majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, for the information of all Senators, this morning the Senate will begin 1 hour of morning business. At 10:30 a.m., the Senate will begin the Iran sanctions bill under a time agreement of 3 hours.

It is possible that some time may be yielded back on the sanctions bill, and therefore votes could occur before noon. The Senate will also consider the ISTEA conference report when it becomes available. Therefore, votes could occur throughout Friday's session, in an effort to conclude several important items prior to the Memorial Day recess.

Mr. President, it is my understanding, in conference with the other side, that they are comfortable with allowing two of our 10-minute sessions to occur back to back and to then go to the other side—and I will begin that, but before I do, for just a couple of minutes the Senator from Oregon will speak to express his grief over circumstances in his State.

Mr. WELLSTONE. Might I interrupt my colleague for a second. I know we will hear from the Senator from Oregon to speak about the tragedy in Oregon, and I think his remarks are perhaps the most important remarks of the day.

Might I ask, since we have some order, after the Senator from Oregon speaks, then two Republicans will speak?

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ALLARD). Correct.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. WELLSTONE. Could I ask unanimous consent to have 10 minutes in the sequence after Senator DORGAN?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is asking there be two 10-minute segments?

Mr. WELLSTONE. I would like to speak after Senator DORGAN for 10 minutes.

Mr. ENZI. Could I request permission before that happens to drop in a bill on behalf of myself and Senator BINGAMAN?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Does the Senator concur with that?

Mr. WELLSTONE. Yes.

Mr. INHOFE. Could we extend that unanimous consent to give me 10 minutes after the Senator from Minnesota?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection to the time requests?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. COVERDELL. I yield 3 minutes of my time to the Senator from Oregon.

Mr. SMITH of Oregon. Mr. President, and my colleagues who have allowed me to speak, I thank you for your courtesy.

TRAGEDY IN OREGON

Mr. SMITH of Oregon. Mr. President, I rise today with a very heavy heart. Yesterday, Senator WYDEN, my colleague from across the aisle, and I were confronted with news of a tragedy in our State that was, frankly, in my mind, quite unimaginable.

The Willamette Valley of Oregon is perhaps one of the most beautiful places in the world. It is surrounded by mountains with snowcaps and clear streams running through it. It is filled with farmers and loggers, college professors and students, people working in State government. It is truly an Eden on Earth.

But yesterday, a most mindless and senseless act was committed that leaves me, frankly, speechless. A young man, obviously very troubled, on the way to school killed his parents and then took three weapons into his school cafeteria at Thurston High School in Springfield, where he opened up and killed 1 student and injured nearly 30 others. This occurred before a wounded student tackled him and held him to the ground.

I don't have words to express the outrage I feel or the heartache that I feel for the families, for the victims, for this community, for my State, for my country, at this outrageous and despicable act.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



Printed on recycled paper.

S5359